

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:  AREA CODE 515 RELIEF PLAN	DOCKET NO. SPU-99-22
---	----------------------

**ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTIONS, TAKING OFFICIAL NOTICE,  
AND ASKING QUESTIONS**

(Issued November 5, 1999)

**INTRODUCTION**

By this order, and pursuant to IOWA CODE § 17A.14(4) (1999), the Utilities Board (Board) is taking official notice of three possible area code split maps attached to this order. The Board is also granting each petition to intervene filed to date and asking each party to respond to certain questions set forth below. These actions are being taken in order to provide the Board with more information in the record in this docket.

**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

The Board is taking official notice of three possible area code split maps, attached to this order as Attachments A, B, and C. Attachments A and B are proposed two-way splits developed by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) prior to the telephone industry meeting that resulted in the industry recommendation for exhaustion relief in the 515 area code. Strictly speaking, they are already a part of this record, as they are attached to the industry

petition that initiated this docket. The Board is attaching them to this order for ease of reference when parties respond to the Board's general questions, set forth below.

Attachment C is a new map, prepared by NANPA and showing a possible three-way split of the 515 area code. The concept of a three-way split was proposed during the public comment proceedings in this docket, as a way to increase the projected effective life of the area code relief that may be ordered in this docket. The use of a three-way split would increase the projected life of 515 area code relief from approximately 8.5 years (for a two-way split or an overlay) to somewhere between 15 and 21 years, effectively doubling the projected time until the next area code relief would be required. At the same time, however, a three-way split would require that more customers receive new area codes as a result of this docket, compared to a two-way split.

The NANPA maps attached to this order represent exchange boundaries in a somewhat simplified manner. Larger maps with more precise exchange boundaries are available for public inspection at the Board's offices at 350 Maple Street, Des Moines, Iowa. The representative boundaries of the NANPA maps appear to be sufficient for present purposes, however, and the Board intends to rely upon these maps unless a specific problem is identified.

The Board emphasizes that taking official notice of the NANPA maps should not be taken as any indication that the Board is inclined toward any of these options for relief in the 515 area code. The Board will not make any decision regarding the

appropriate form of area code relief until all of the evidence has been received. The Board's concern is only for having the best possible record in this docket, and it is likely the record will be improved if the parties can make their written statements with respect to specific proposals, rather than a generalized concept without specified boundaries.

For the same reason, the Board will clarify that these are not the only splits the Board is willing to consider. If any party wishes to propose a different split, the Board will consider it and, if appropriate, will ask the other parties to address the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal.

### **QUESTIONS**

The Board is asking each party, as appropriate, to address certain general questions regarding area code relief and the advantages and disadvantages of different options available to the Board.

1. Please consider each of the area code split options attached to this order and comment on the appropriateness of the proposed new area code boundaries in each option.

2. Some state commissions that have implemented an area code split have decided to leave the existing area code with the more populous region and assign the new area code to the less populous region, in the belief that this will impose a new area code on fewer customers, both residential and business. The intended result is to minimize the total public expense from implementation of a new area

code. Please comment on whether this would be an appropriate principle for the Board to apply in Iowa and, if possible, indicate how you believe the area codes should be assigned in each of the attached options, stating the reasons for your preference.

3. Please identify any protected central office codes in the 515 area code of which you may be aware and indicate why they should or should not continue to be protected in the future. Please indicate the related exchange names, the number of lines in use in each affected exchange, the calling scope for the affected exchanges, and any other information you believe the Board should consider in reviewing protected central office codes.

4. Please provide the estimated cost for your company associated with implementation of each split option and the geographic overlay option and explain any proposal you may have for recovery of those costs. If your estimated costs differ for the various split options, please explain the cause or causes of the difference. If you believe any particular option cannot be implemented for some reason, please explain, in detail, the basis of your belief.

5. Please comment on any possible effect of permanent number portability on the Board's decision in this docket.

6. For each of the attached split options, please provide a list of all EAS routes between the resulting area codes which may be affected by the split. Please identify any routing problems you anticipate and explained your proposed solutions.

7. Please comment on the appropriate customer educational efforts that should be taken in connection with implementation of area code relief. In particular, please comment on which efforts should be under the Board's direction and which should be conducted by local exchange carriers or other interested persons. Finally, if you have prepared any customer notices or education materials for use in connection with any area code relief measures, please provide copies for Board review.

The Board is aware that the first round of written statements is due on November 8, 1999, making it impossible for interested persons to answer these questions in those written statements. Accordingly, the Board will ask that responses to the questions be included in the reply comments in this docket. In the interest of allowing additional time for answering the questions, the Board will extend the deadline for filing the reply comments from November 30, 1999, to December 3, 1999.

### **ORDERING CLAUSES**

#### **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. The petitions to intervene filed by AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc., MCI WorldCom, Inc., U.S. Cellular Corporation, Western Wireless Corporation, U S WEST Communications, Inc., and the Iowa Telecommunications Association are granted.

2. Pursuant to IOWA CODE § 17A.14(4), the Board takes official notice of the proposed area code split maps attached to this order as Attachments A, B, and C, for the purposes described in the body of this order and for such other purposes as may be appropriate.

3. All parties to this proceeding are requested to respond to the questions set forth in the body of this order as a part of their counterstatements.

4. The deadline for filing written counterstatements is hereby extended to December 3, 1999.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr.      /s/ Diane Munns  
Executive Secretary

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1999.